



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 6, 2012 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

O Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

You who seek the Lord, praise Him.

All you, His people, glorify Him and stand in awe.

**In the midst of the assembly we will praise You;
we will fulfill our vows before those who fear You.**

How blessed are those who dwell in Your house!

They are ever praising You.

**How blessed are those whose strength is in You,
in whose hearts are the highways to Zion!**

How blessed are those whom You choose and bring near to You,
to dwell in Your courts.

**We will abide in Your tabernacle forever;
we will trust in the shelter of Your wings.**

For You, O God, have heard our vows;

You have given us the heritage of those who fear Your name.

— from Psalms 90, 22, 84, 65, 61





Better Is One Day

How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied,
Within Your presence;
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts (3x)
Than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

Bridge

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God;
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen, Your gift of love to me;
I will draw near to You, I will abide in You.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Public Domain; Ancient Irish Hymn (*Slane*); trans. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God;
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Leader: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

*By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us,
because He has given us of His Spirit.*

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

Leader: God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

We have come to know and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have confidence on the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

We love, because He first loved us.

– 1 John 4:7-19

Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

(Where there is charity and love, there God is.)

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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle?

Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

**Those who walk with integrity, and work righteousness;
who speak truth in their hearts, and honor those who fear the
Lord.**

They shall receive a blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

— from Psalms 15 and 24

[Silence]

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.



CCLI Song No. 24140 ©1982 Whole Armor Publishing; John W. Thompson, Randy Scruggs.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said,

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

“Abide in Me, as I abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; for apart from Me, you can do nothing.

“My Father is glorified by this: that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

– from John 15:1-8

TIME OF OFFERING

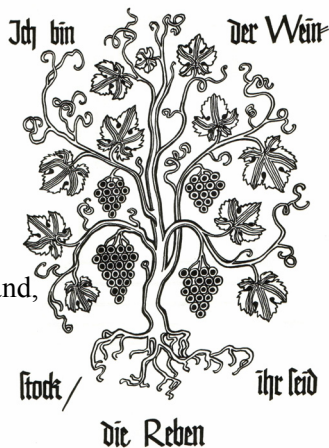
Loving God, in Your love and grace You have invited us into Your presence and to abide in You. With grateful hearts and in thanksgiving, we bring Your tithes and our offerings as a sign of our love, devotion, and worship.

Christ Be Beside Me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts, thinking about me,
Christ be on all tongues, telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.



Text: *St. Patrick's Breastplate*; adapt. by James Quinn
Tune: BUNESSAN; Public Domain



THE WORD

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Our Father, Who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen



By Our Love

Brothers, let us come together, walking in the Spirit;
There's much to be done.
We will come reaching out from our comforts,
And they will know us by our love.

Sisters, we were made for kindness, we can pierce the darkness,
As He shines through us.
We will come reaching, with a song of healing,
And they will know us by our love.

Chorus

The time is now, come church arise.
Love with His hands, see with His eyes.
Bind it around you, let it never leave you.
And they will know us by our love.

Children, you are hope for justice, stand firm in the Truth now,
Set your hearts above.
You will be reaching long after we're gone,
And they will know you by your love.

Chorus

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Publishing Designee. Christy Nockels.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

Lord I want to be like Jesus
In my life, in my life;
Lord I want to be like Jesus in my life.
In my life, in my life,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my life.

Public Domain; American Folk Hymn. Lyrics adapted by Ellen Koehler.

Benediction:

God the Father, who sent his Spirit upon his Son, bless you with the abiding presence of his Spirit. **Amen.**

Jesus, who received the Spirit and manifested the Father, abide in you and make you a manifestation of His life. **Amen.**

And God the Spirit, who came upon Christ in the fullness of power, empower you as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Who can describe the blessed bond of the love of God? ... Love unites us to God. Love covers a multitude of sins. Love bears all things – is long suffering in all things. There is nothing cruel, nothing arrogant in love. Love allows no divisions; love gives rise to no rebellions; love does all things in harmony. By love have all the elect of God been made perfect; without love nothing is well-pleasing to God. In love has the Lord taken us to Himself. On account of His love for us, Jesus Christ our Lord gave His blood for us by the will of God, His flesh for our flesh, and His soul for our souls. You see, beloved, how great and wonderful a thing love is and that it is impossible to adequately declare its perfection. Who is fit to be found in it except those whom God has graciously privileged? Let us pray, therefore, and implore of His mercy, that we may live blameless in love, free from all human partialities for one above another.”
– Clement of Rome

Lectionary for next week: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

www.epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

Sunday mornings at The Carmichael Chapel, 4600 Winding Way
(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.

Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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